

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO AGRICULTURE

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ECON, GR

SUBJECT: NORTHERN GREEK ECONOMIC PROSPECTS BRIGHTEN AS
AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS BOOM

1. IN WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 22, MINISTER
OF NORTHERN GREECE MARTIS GAVE FOLLOWING REPORT
ON STATUS OF CURRENT FRUIT CAMPAIGN AND EXPORTS
FROM MACEDONIA TO EUROPEAN MARKETS. PEACH SHIP-
MENTS AS OF JULY 20, HAD N TOPPED
81 THOUSAND TONS, AS OPPOSED TO 40 THOUSAND TONS
ON SAME DATE LAST YEAR. BULK OF EXPORTS
(62.5 THOUSAND TONS), PRINCIPALLY FROM EMATHIA
AND PELLI NOMI, WENT TO WEST GERMANY, FOLLOWED AT
SOME DISTANCE BY FRANCE, POLAND, NETHERLANDS, AUS-
STRIA AND VARIOUS OTHER EUROPEAN BUYERS. IT HAD
EARLIER BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT PEACH EXPORTS OF MORE THAN 130
THOUSAND TONS ARE EXPECTED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR' S CAMPAIGN WHICH,
AT PREVAILING PRICES OF 1.10 DM TO 1.40 DM IN THE
MUNICH MARKET, SHOULD NET FOREIGN EXCHANGE
RETURNS OF APPROX. 70 DOLLARS MILLION.
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2. EXPORTS OF OTHER FRUITS, THOUGH OF LESSER IM-
PORTANCE, ARE SIMILARLY ELEVATED OVER LAST YEAR' S
LEVELS, ACCORDING TO MARTIS, E.G., APRICOTS
AT 15 THOUSAND TONS AS OF JULY 20, COMPARED TO 11.7

THOUSAND IN 1974, WATERMELONS 11.2 THOUSAND TONS COMPARED TO 4.5, AND LIKE TRENDS IN CHERRIES, CUCUMBERS, PEPPERS, ETC. MARTIS OBSERVED THAT EXPORT INCREASES ARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO PENETRATION OF NEW MARKETS AND, ESPECIALLY IN PEACHES, TO LOW LEVELS OF FRENCH PRODUCTION THIS YEAR.

3. CONCURRENTLY, ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MADE THAT WITH AN EXTENDED OPERATING PERIOD PLANNED FOR NORTHERN GREEK SUGAR FACTORIES THIS YEAR, UP TO 2.4 MILLION TONS OF SUGAR BEETS ARE EXPECTED TO BE PROCESSED, SUFFICIENT TO COVER GREECE'S DOMESTIC NEEDS FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND CONSERVING NEEDED FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

4. COMMENT: ASSUMING THESE FORECASTS ACCURATE, AND TAKING CURRENT MACEDONIAN TOURIST INTO ACCOUNT (THESS A-21, JULY 21, 1975), PROSPECTS FOR SHARP RECOVERY OF NORTHERN GREEK ECONOMY FROM DISMAL SUMMER OF 1974 APPEAR EXCELLENT.
BRENNAN

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